

## BEST COPY

### GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL EXHIBIT FOR MONTH OF MARCH.

Decrease of \$8,308,823 in the Public Debt and an Increase in Revenue Receipts of About \$24,000,000.

### TRIP FOR THE CRUISER CHICAGO

#### ADMIRAL HOWISON TO TAKE HIS SHIP ON A LONG VOYAGE.

Will Go to South Atlantic Station by Way of San Carlos-Perry S. Heath to Leave for Porto Rico This Week.

WASHINGTON, April 1.—The monthly statement of the public debt shows that at the close of business March 31 the debt, less cash in the treasury, amounted to \$1,189,566,563, which is a decrease during the month of \$8,308,823. This decrease is accounted for by the net increase in the cash on hand. The debt is recapitulated as follows:

Interest-bearing debt	\$1,045,775,290
Debt on which interest has ceased	1,219,429
Total	\$1,047,054,719
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Total	\$1,048,274,148

This amount, however, does not include \$1,048,274,148 in certificates and treasury notes outstanding, which are offset by an equal amount of cash in the treasury. The cash in the treasury is classified as follows:

Gold	\$273,395,355
Silver	\$6,576,981
Notes	\$5,961,913
Bonds, deposits in national banks, depositories, disbursing officers' balances, etc.	\$9,917,172
Total	\$345,851,321

Against the above there are demand liabilities outstanding amounting to \$25,015,924, which leaves a net cash balance of \$324,835,397.

The monthly statement of the controller of the currency shows the total circulation of national bank notes on March 31, 1899, was \$246,622,217, an increase for the year of \$18,456,288, and an increase for the month of \$149,550.

The circulation based on United States bonds amounted to \$246,622,217, an increase for the year of \$18,456,288, and a decrease for the month of \$149,550.

The monthly comparative statement of the government receipts and expenditures shows that the total receipts for March were \$77,009,229, an increase, as compared with March, 1898, of about \$24,000,000. The expenditures were \$52,444,427, and the disbursements, \$467,962,932. This is an increase in the receipts, as compared with the month of last year, of nearly \$15,000,000, and an increase in the disbursements of \$14,122,000.

The monthly statement of the director of the mint shows the total coinage during March was \$14,572,073, of which \$12,176,715 was silver, \$2,395,358 gold and \$48,907 minor coins. The coinage of standard silver dollars during the month amounted to \$11,900,000.

The quarterly statement of the values of the standard coins of the world shows that since Jan. 1, 1899, the value of silver has decreased from \$0.9049 per ounce to \$0.9017, and the value of the coins has decreased accordingly.

It has been decided that Rear Admiral Howison's flagship, the Chicago, will proceed to the South Atlantic station via the Mediterranean and Red seas, and thence around Cape of Good Hope, touching at all the principal ports on the west African coast. The department considers it a good thing to make a display of an American ship occasionally at those unfrequented ports of the world, and the magnificent cruiser Chicago will certainly create a deep impression on the west coast of Africa.

The last American war ship which covered this route was the gunboat Castine when she was dispatched to join the south Atlantic squadron in 1894. Rear Admiral Howison will sail with the Chicago, and will be accompanied by the gunboat Albatross.

The only other ship attached to the south Atlantic station is the Wilmington, which is now in Brazilian waters. The cruise of the Chicago will require about four months.

Officials of the War Department have been advised that some apprehension exists in the Southern States that the return of the troops from Cuba may bring yellow fever infection. Protests have been made against the establishment of camps at Atlanta, and the suggestion has been made that troops should be kept early and not mustered out in the South. So far as the Southern troops are concerned, it is possible to muster them out only near their homes. The Northern troops it is intended to bring North. It is stated at the department that investigation into the plan to establish camps at Atlanta is being made.

It is probable that no camp will be established at Atlanta. The War Department is making every precaution possible to prevent infection and makes no move without consulting Surgeon General Wyman, of the Marine Hospital Service. The department is acting on his suggestion and advice, and the whole matter of protection against infection is in his hands. The health of the troops of infection the troops will be brought at once to Camp Meade in Pennsylvania.

Charles E. Barber, engraver in the Philadelphia mint, is drawing the design for the dollar to be minted by the United States in commemoration of Lafayette. The director of the mint has received a letter from Robert J. Thompson, secretary of the Lafayette monument commission, suggesting that on one side of the coin the faces of Washington, Lafayette, Lincoln, McKinley and Grant appear, and that, if practical, the signatures of Lafayette and Lincoln be given in facsimile. On the other side Mr. Thompson suggests the use of the words "Lafayette Monument Commission." The director of the mint has received a letter from Robert J. Thompson, secretary of the Lafayette monument commission, suggesting that on one side of the coin the faces of Washington, Lafayette, Lincoln, McKinley and Grant appear, and that, if practical, the signatures of Lafayette and Lincoln be given in facsimile. On the other side Mr. Thompson suggests the use of the words "Lafayette Monument Commission."

It is understood that the Venezuelan government is about to name a new minister to Washington, and that Dr. Rojas, former minister to the United States, is one of the foremost men of the country, quite likely to be selected. Minister Andrade is aware, unofficially, of the purpose of the government, and is postponing his departure for Venezuela until the new minister is named. It was at first understood that Senor Andrade would retain his mission here while at London, but it is now probable that Senor Andrade will be transferred to London, leaving a vacancy here.

A postoffice inspection to-day ordered to proceed to Alexandria, Ind., to investigate and report upon local conditions there looking to the establishment of the rural free delivery system.

George W. Anglin, of Clunette, Ind., and John E. Coen, of Newton, Ind., were to-day appointed clerks in the railway mail service.

Nathaniel H. Baker, of Portland, has accepted a position in the postal service tendered him by First Assistant Postmaster General Heath on the recommendation of the department. Baker is a Representative from Oregon.

Dudley and Michener, attorneys for Indiana, have filed a petition for the reopening of Indiana's claim for \$300,753.41, being the amount paid by the State of Indiana on money borrowed to equip troops during the war of the rebellion. This claim was disallowed in 1888 on technical grounds, but the Indiana government has continued to withhold the money on the same technical objection. The decision will probably be announced next week.

The Navy Department has issued the circulars containing the specifications for the bids for the 24,000 tons of armor plate to be purchased under the acts of 1888 and 1889. The price fixed for the ten thousand tons under the former act is \$400 and the 14,000 tons under the latter, \$300. The first delivery of the 400 armor is to be made by March 1, 1900, and the balance in ten monthly installments. The first of the armor authorized by the latter act is to be delivered by March 1, 1900, and the balance in ten monthly installments. The proposals are to be opened May 31. The department has not received any bids from other bidders besides the Carnegie and Bethlehem companies, which have assurances that either of these companies will bid. They may simply notify the department that they will not bid under the price limitation set by Congress.

Solicitor Penfield, of the State Department, has been studying the decision of the Court of Cassation at Rome, delivered Feb. 4, in the case of Isaac and Samuel vs. Ernesto Cerruti. The result of that case has been given, but Mr. Penfield has found in it an interesting feature. The court has decided that no nation can set aside the decision of an international tribunal by a unilateral act. The court has also decided that a nation can set aside the decision of an international tribunal by a unilateral act.

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Testimony Given by Dr. Taylor, Helmsman, DeWitt, Hall, Loney, Apple and Birmingham.

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Major Blair E. Taylor, in charge of the hospital at Fort McPherson, said the beef furnished the hospital was all of excellent quality.

Major Charles L. Helmsman, who was in command of the general hospital at Montauk Point, testified that all intestinal troubles there were attributable to malaria and not to the food. The food question did not arise at all.

Lieut. Calvin De Witt, in charge of the general hospital at Fort Monroe, said that very few intestinal diseases were treated at that institution, and that those were not attributable to insufficient or poor diet.

Major W. R. Hall, who was in control of the general hospital at Key West, had no experience there with either canned roast or refrigerator meat. He attributed the intestinal diseases generally to the fact that the men had been exposed to a tropical climate. He heard some complaint that the beef was not good, but he said that he and they were very much run down.

AT THE PONCE HOTEL.

Major H. P. Burningham told of the general conditions of the Ponce hospital, of which he was in charge. He had used both roast beef and refrigerated beef there, as well as the native beef. It was necessary to prevent spoiling, and the refrigerated beef was preferred to the native article. He had found the canned beef satisfactory in stews and had heard no complaint concerning it.

Typoid was the principal disease, but there were many cases of dysentery and cholera. The latter was attributed generally to the eating of the native fruits and not to the meats. All told, only about 120 cases of the beef had been used. The refrigerated beef was taken from the cargo of the Manitoba. Some of it required to be trimmed but he considered it good food.

Major John L. Loney, who had charge of the hospital ship Belle during the hostilities, said that about 500 sick men had been transported on the vessel and that he did not attribute any of these cases to the use of improper food or to the want of food. He had never used canned roast beef. The refrigerated beef had been used and had given no trouble. He thought it ought to be used on the beef, but attributed the discoloration of the surface to the coagulation of the fat. The beef was not spoiled.

Major T. M. Apple told of his experience of the war at Mobile, Miami and New York. He had used both roast and refrigerated beef, and he thought it probable that some intestinal trouble had been caused by the use of the latter, especially of the lack of proper food for the sick. He had heard that the men had been refused to eat the canned beef, but he had attributed the refusal to the fact that the men were run down.

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